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# TODAY'S HOME

Reserve

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## NATIONAL HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK

### MAY 5-12, 1946

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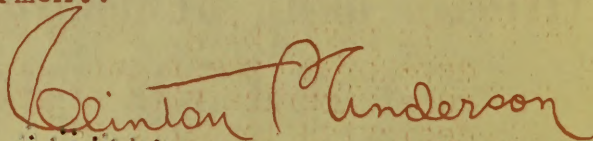
# Our Hope Lies in Our Homes

To the Rural Women in Home Demonstration Work:

It is fortunate that we Americans realize that, amid all the problems of war and readjustment, our greatest strength and hope for the future lie in our homes. That is why I am happy that you in home demonstration work are focusing our attention on the contributions of the rural home to progress and world peace during National Home Demonstration Week, May 5-12.

I particularly like your theme, "Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World." We need such deep-seated, forward-looking objectives in critical times like these. It is in our homes that we mold our citizens of tomorrow and inspire them to greater knowledge and accomplishments.

I would like to commend the 3½ million women who are cooperating in home demonstration work and urge you to carry forward in every way possible your goals of better homes, good health, successful family living, and general community betterment.

  
Secretary of Agriculture

598054



# HOME DEMONSTRATION WEEK

MAY 5-12, 1946

"Today's Home Builds Tomorrow's World" is the theme for National Home Demonstration Week. It will be used by rural women to focus attention on the contribution of the home and family toward progress and world peace. Activities will also feature the progress made in rural living since the home demonstration program was initiated.

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# 3½ Million Women Participate

From a handful of women learning tomato canning in 1913, over 3½ million rural homemakers now participate in the home demonstration program. The scope of the work has been expanded from gardening and canning to embrace every phase of rural family life.

The program, started by canning club agents in one or two southern communities, is now a well-established institution in more than 3,000 counties in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. It is carried into rural homes and communities by home demonstration agents, joint employees of the State land-grant colleges and the Department of Agriculture. The home demonstration agents' office is usually in the county seat. Together with the county agricultural and 4-H Club agents, they live in the midst of the people whom they serve.

In addition to foods and nutrition, clothing, household management, home furnishings, handicrafts, and recreation, rural families are asking home demonstration agents for help with problems in such fields as health and medical care, housing, farm and home and financial planning, work simplification in the home, consumer education, child care and parent education, community welfare, and citizenship responsibilities.



# Dedicated Leadership Produces Results

The routine of early home demonstration agents was much like that of a circuit rider. Many went by horseback or by horse and buggy from community to community, spending the night in farm homes, returning to the office on Saturday.

They worked at first with individual homemakers. As interest and participation in the program increased, the agents began calling groups together to make a demonstration reach 10 to 20 women instead of only one. More important, they began training homemakers who excelled in special skills to teach their neighbors.

In 1944 almost half a million women were multiplying the efforts of home demonstration agents. Trained by the agents and extension specialists, these volunteer, unpaid leaders held food clinics and clothing and furniture renovation workshops. They organized school-lunch programs and medical clinics for pre-school children; established recreation centers and libraries; and held forums on family and public problems.

In performing these services, they further developed their own abilities and provided rural America with progressive, informed, and dedicated leadership.

# Home Demonstration Women Speak

"In speaking for myself, I speak for the women of my country. Since the advent of home demonstration work, we are new women. We have been taught better home management, to appreciate our homes, our fellowmen. We are more interested in government, better schools, religious affairs, and, best of all, there has been developed a leadership which I never would have thought possible."-VIRGINIA

"I can truly say that I am a better buyer; my home is better planned and equipped and my family healthier, happier, and more capable of meeting life's problems because of extension work."-MICHIGAN

"I know that my home folks are more content because of the knowledge I have gained through bulletins, leader-training meetings, public demonstrations, and, last but not least, personal contact with one who is especially trained to help me, the home demonstration agent. I have but to reach for my telephone or address a post card and I receive special attention and the information I desired."-NEW JERSEY

"Often we get in a rut, and the new suggestions and new ideas passed on to us from our home demonstration agent are a regular blood transfusion."-OREGON

